

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 SSM-03 TRSE-00
OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 HA-05 AID-05 /118 W
-----122901 151839Z /45

P R 151630Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1949
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3535

FOR NEA/IAI AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, PBOR, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IN THE GAZA STRIP, RAFAH
APPROACHES AND THE SINAI

REF: A. TEL AVIV A-44; B. TEL AVIV 2356; C. STATE 40483
(NOTAL); D. TEL AVIV 725

1. SUMMARY: ON MARCH 10-12 FIELD TRIP TO THE GAZA STRIP,
RAFAH APPROACHES AND THE EASTERN SINAI, EMBOFF OBSERVED
ONGOING CONSTRUCTION AT QATIF B, QATIF C, PRIEL, TALMEI
YOSEF AND YAMIT. NO CONSTRUCTION OR DEVELOPMENT WORK
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WAS BEING CARRIED OUT AT PERMANENT SITE OF MOSHAV KADESH
BARNEA, FOUR SADOT SITES, OR AT NEVIOT B (ZAHARAN) SITE.
THE CABINET'S FEBRUARY 28 DECISION HAS IN PRACTICE
RESULTED IN A FREEZE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW
SETTLEMENTS. CONSTRUCTION BEGUN
BEFORE FEBRUARY 28 HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THE CABINET
DECISION. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF TOOK MARCH 10-12 FIELD TRIP THROUGH THE GAZA STRIP, RAFAH APPROACHES AND EASTERN SINAI IN ORDER TO PREPARE A RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF C. ROUTE WAS GAZA STRIP, YAMIT, EL-ARISH, BIR LAHFAN, AYN QUSAYMAH, NITZANA, DIMONA, EILAT, NEVIOT, DI-ZAHAB. SITES MENTIONED BELOW WILL BE MORE PRECISELY LOCATED ON MAPS ENCLOSED WITH REF A (POUCHED MARCH 14).

3. QATIF B (1 KM SW OF NEZER HAZANI)--GROUND PREPARATION BEING CARRIED OUT AT THIS SITE ON MARCH 10 BY ONE BULLDOZER AND ONE GRADER. TWO OTHER BULLDOZERS AND ONE GRADER OBSERVED ON SITE.

4. QATIF C (1.5 KM. SW OF NEZER HAZANI)-- CONSTRUCTION CONTINUING AT THIS SITE ON MARCH 10. TWELVE HOUSES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET UP. FOUNDATIONS PREPARED FOR ANOTHER NINE HOUSES. ONE CRANE AND TWO BULLDOZERS OBSERVED ON SITE.

5. PRIEL (1.5 KM. EAST OF NETIV HA'ASARA)-- CONSTRUCTION CONTINUING AT THIS SITE ON MARCH 10. ONE HOUSE HAS BEEN SET UP. FOUNDATIONS PREPARED FOR ANOTHER 20 HOUSES. TWO CRANES ON SITE. THREE BULLDOZERS LEVELING GROUND. ANOTHER BULLDOZER AND GRADER WORKING ON EAST-WEST ROAD.

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6. TALMEI YOSEF (2 KM. EAST OF NETIV HA'ASARA)--CONSTRUCTION CONTINUING AT THIS SITE ON MARCH 10. TWENTY-TWO HOUSES HAVE ALREADY BEEN SET UP. FOUNDATIONS FOR SEVERAL ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN PREPARED.

7. YAMIT--CONSTRUCTION CONTINUING MARCH 10 ON HOUSING STAGES B AND C. COMMERCIAL CENTER OF TEN STORES HAS NOW OPENED FOR BUSINESS.

8. HARUVIT AREA--NO ACTIVITY AT SITE A (1.5 KM. WEST OF HARUVIT), SITE B (1 KM. NORTHEAST OF HARUVIT) OR SITE C (3 KM. NORTHEAST OF HARUVIT). FIVE KM. LONG WATERPIPE LEADING FROM MAIN PIPE ALONG COASTAL ROAD TO WATER TOWER AT SITE C NOW LINKED UP. PRE-FAB SHACKS AT SITES B AND C HAVE BEEN KNOCKED OVER BY THE WIND. THEY ARE EMPTY.

9. KADESH BARNEA-- NO WORK CURRENTLY GOING ON AT PERMANENT SITE FOR MOSHAV KADESH BARNEA. ACCESS TO SITE IS BY 14 KM. UNSURFACED AND BADLY RUTTED TRACK. TWO PRE-FAB SHACKS HAVE BEEN SET UP AND THERE WERE MATERIALS AT SITE TO SET UP ANOTHER TWO. A WELL HAS BEEN DRILLED

AT SITE. THE 300 BY 100 METER AREA HAS BEEN FENCED.
ONE TRACTOR OBSERVED OUTSIDE PERIMETER.

10. KADESH BARNEA ANTIQUITY SITE--NO EXCAVATIONS BEING
CARRIED OUT.

11. AYN QUSAYMAH--SMALL IDF COMPOUND OF SIX BUILDINGS
IN SLIGHTLY LARGER ARAB VILLAGE. TEN MEMBERS OF 50
PERSON KADESH BARNEA SETTLEMENT NUCLEUS TEMPORARILY
RESIDENT IN COMPOUND.

12. NEVIOT B (ZAHARAN)--TWELVE CRAVANS BELONGING TO
ZAHARAN SETTLEMENT NUCLEUS REMAIN AT NEVIOT SETTLEMENT.

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13. NEVIOT--SETTLEMENT CONSISTS OF TWO CLUSTERS: HOTEL/
DIVING VILLAGE AND MOSHAV. THE MOSHAV INCLUDES 60 HOMES
(COMPLETED OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION), A SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY
CENTER. CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IS 35 FAMILIES.
THE MOSHAV HAS TWO GREENHOUSES AND AN AREA UNDER OPEN
FIELD AGRICULTURE.

14. "FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE"--TEN KM. SOUTH OF NEVIOT IS
A PRIVATE FISHING/RESTAURANT ENTERPRISE AUTHORIZED BY
THE GOI. FOUR ISRAELIS AND WORKERS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES
RUN THE BUSINESS.

15. THERE IS A SMALL IDF INSTALLATION OF FOUR BUILDINGS
8.5 KM. SOUTH OF NEVIOT.

16. THERE IS AN IDF INSTALLATION ("MISHMAR DAHAB") OF
FIFTEEN BUILDINGS 1 KM. NORTH OF DI-ZAHAB.

17. DI-ZAHAB--SETTLEMENT CONSISTS OF TWO CLUSTERS:
THE HOTEL/DIVING VILLAGE AND THE MOSHAV ITSELF. THE
MOSHAV CONSISTS OF ABOUT 30 COMPLETED HOMES AND A COMMUNITY
CENTER. FIFTEEN ADDITIONAL HOMES ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.
OPEN-FIELD AGRICULTURE PRACTICED BY MOSHAV.

18. COMMENT: THE CABINET'S FEBRUARY 28 DECISION
APPARENTLY ORDERED A FREEZE ONLY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF NEW SETTLEMENTS (SUCH AS KADESH BARNEA, THE FOUR
SADOT SITES AND NEVIOT B (ZAHARAN). ONGOING CONSTRUCTION
(AT QATIF B, QATIF C, PRIEL, TALMEI YOSEF AND YAMIT)
WAS NOT AFFECTED BY THE CABINET DECISION.
VIETS

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